

Pub *PQ* WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A facsimile apparatus provided with a confidential reception function, comprising:

5 a memory which stores received confidential image data;

10 a notification data transmission means for transmitting notification data indicating that the confidential image data has not been retrieved, in the event that the confidential image data stored in the memory area has not been retrieved in a predetermined time; and

15 a deletion means for deleting the confidential image data from the memory in response to the completion of transmission of said notification data by the notification data transmission means.

15 *See SCh*

2. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification data includes at least a part of the confidential image data.

20 *Pub* *PQ* 3. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification data includes a time information of the confidential image data transmission.

4. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said notification data includes an
addressee information of the confidential image.

5. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
5 wherein said notification data includes an
information providing notification that the confidential
image was erased.

10. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising:
a retransmission means for re-transmitting the
notification data when the transmission of the notification
data is not completed successfully.

15. 7. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 6,
further comprising:
a prohibiting means for prohibiting said deletion
of the confidential image when the transmission of the
notification data is not completed after predetermined
20 times of said retransmission.

8. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising:
a identification means for identifying
25 transmitter telephone number based on transmitted data;

wherein said memory stores the transmitter
telephone number in connection with the confidential image.

9. ~~A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 8,~~
~~wherein said notification data transmission~~
~~means transmits the notification data using the identified~~
~~telephone number by the identification means.~~

10. ~~A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 1,~~
~~wherein said memory stores the time of receipt of~~
~~the confidential image in connection with the confidential~~
~~image.~~

11. A facsimile apparatus provided with a
15 confidential reception function, comprising:
a memory which stores received confidential image
data;
an output means for outputting the stored
confidential image data in response to input of a password
20 by an operator;

a determination means for determining whether or
not the confidential image data has been output by the
output means within a predetermined time after its
reception;

5 a notification data transmission means for transmitting notification data indicating that confidential image data has not been output, in the event that the determination means has determined that output of the confidential image data has not been performed;

10 a detection means for detecting proper completion of transmission of the notification data; and

15 a deletion means for deleting the confidential image data from the memory in response to detection by the detection means.

20 *SC12* 12. A facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 11,
15 wherein said notification data includes at least a part of the confidential image data.

25 *mark at* 13. A managing method for a confidential received image in a facsimile apparatus provided with a confidential reception function, comprising the steps of:

receiving confidential image data and storing the image data in a memory;

monitoring whether the stored confidential image data has been output within a predetermined time after the reception;

transmitting notification data indicating that output has not occurred, in the event that output has not occurred within the predetermined time;

5 detecting proper completion of transmission of the notification data; and

deleting the confidential image data from the memory in response to the detection.

14. A managing method as claimed in claim 13,
wherein said notification data includes at least
a part of the confidential image data.

Bob C.H.

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